

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. All claims have been rejected.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, Claim 1 has been amended to now recite a “control signal” instead of a “clock control signal”. It is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

The Examiner further rejected Claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,005,812 (Mullarkey).

The present invention is directed to a DC voltage generation system for providing DC voltage to a system that includes one or more sub-systems, and describes hierarchical power management. The term “system”, as recited in the claims of the present application, refers to a unit that may include and support many sub-systems.

To the contrary, Mullarkey describes generating a DC supply in a simple memory array. Mullarkey teaches a unit that is equivalent to a sub-system of the present application. This is supported by the fact that in a system on chip (SOC), recited in all of the present claims, memory is just one of many sub-systems. Mullarkey’s distribution of DC components among the sub-system teaches away from the present invention because the present invention distributes the DC components not to one sub-system but among the whole system, i.e., a unit of many sub-systems. That is, in the present invention, for each sub-system, there is only one DC component.

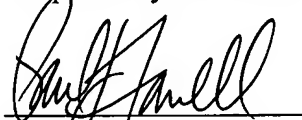
In the present state of art, each sub-system requires its own DC generator design. Mullarkey discusses DC generation for one or the same type of a sub-system, as all of its sub-systems are memory, and hence can be powered by the same type DC generator. Other sub-systems, that are not of the same type, e.g., not memory in Mullarkey, are not supported by the same type DC generator. It can therefore be concluded that Mullarkey does not teach or describe the system DC voltage generator recited in Claim 1, or the method for supplying voltage to a plurality of subsystems, recited in Claim 13 of the present application.

Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2-12 and 14-21, it is

respectfully submitted that they are believed to be allowable over Mullarkey by virtue of their dependence on independent Claims 1 and 13, respectively.

Applicants submit that pending Claims 1-21 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell", is written over a horizontal line.

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